

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE REAUTHORIZATION OF FIRSTNET AND
SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HOUSE-PASSED
FIRSTNET REAUTHORIZATION BILL**

Adopted by the Southeastern Division of the IAFC

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) are committed to ensuring that firefighters, EMS providers, law enforcement officers, 9-1-1 personnel, emergency managers, and other public safety professionals across the Southeastern Division have access to reliable, secure, interoperable, prioritized, and resilient communications to protect the lives and safety of the public they serve; and

WHEREAS, Congress created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) through the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 to establish a single, nationwide public safety broadband network dedicated to first responders; and

WHEREAS, FirstNet has become a vital and trusted resource for Fire Chiefs, Police Chiefs, Sheriffs, deputies, emergency managers, 9-1-1 leaders, EMS providers, and all first responders, providing priority, preemption, secure communications, and improved situational awareness during both day-to-day operations and major emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the continued success of FirstNet depends on timely congressional reauthorization to ensure that the network can evolve, modernize, and remain accountable to the public safety community; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives has passed legislation to reauthorize the FirstNet Authority for 10 years, and the Senate Commerce Committee is now considering revised bill language that reflects important improvements and enhancements supported by the public safety community; and

WHEREAS, the revised Senate Commerce language restores the FirstNet Authority as an independent authority, preserves Board-centered operational control, and ensures that network decisions remain guided by public safety professionals rather than unnecessary layers of bureaucracy; and

WHEREAS, the revised Senate Commerce language strengthens public safety governance by increasing public safety representation on the FirstNet Authority Board, requiring timely action to fill Board vacancies, and preserving an Executive Director who reports to and is accountable to the Board; and

WHEREAS, the revised Senate Commerce language also creates a 60-day deemed-executed process for Board-approved network reinvestment decisions and task orders, helping ensure that needed network improvements can move forward in a timely manner for the benefit of first responders and the communities they protect; and

WHEREAS, this reauthorization endorsement includes maintaining the structural and operational integrity of the FirstNet Authority Board and strengthening the statutory framework for FirstNet so that public safety remains the primary focus of oversight, operations, and decision-making;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southeastern Division of the IAFC strongly supports reauthorization of the FirstNet Authority and the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southeastern Division supports the revised Senate Commerce Committee language as public-safety-backed improvements and enhancements to the House-passed FirstNet reauthorization bill, including provisions that restore independent authority, preserve Board-centered control, expand public safety representation, strengthen accountability, and ensure timely action on network

reinvestment decisions and task orders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Southeastern Division urges the Senate Commerce Committee and Congress to act swiftly to advance and enact FirstNet reauthorization, thereby ensuring the continued success, modernization, and operational integrity of this essential nationwide public safety broadband network; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to all states within the Southeastern Congressional Delegation, the Governors of said states, the leadership of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and other relevant officials to demonstrate the unified support of the Southeastern Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and all of public safety for this critical public safety initiative.

**Adopted by the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs, Board of Directors
on September 16, 2026**

Recorded on September 16, 2026, by Fire Chief (RET.), Larry H. Williams, Jr., Executive Director